

FIX-N-FAX #178

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Number 178

Mandatory Compliance

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MOBILE EQUIPMENT HYDRAULIC SIGHT GAUGES

It is being reported by some field units that the poly -carbonate hydraulic sight gauges used on all of our hydrostatic drive pump engines are melting or distorting when exposed to radiant heat. There are two types of sight gauges used on the hydrostatic drive engines. One is of an all polyamide composite with a thermometer built into the center of the unit. The second is of the same polyamide composite but with an aluminum guard around the entire unit. The all-plastic gauge has shown the highest occurrence of color and distortion from the effect of radiant heat. The recommended operating for the standard unit is 176 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the manufacture, the gauge will start to deform at 275 degrees Fahrenheit and total failure somewhere around 340 degrees Fahrenheit. We have found a replacement gauge designed to withstand temperatures up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

New sight gauges will be shipped out to all units this month. It is expected that all old gauges be replaced with the new gauges before the start of this fire season.

Some models were installed with metric bolts and some use standard bolts. The new gauges will be shipped with both standard and metric bolts. When installing the new sight gauges apply blue loc-tite to the mounting bolts and hand tighten. Then tighten with a wrench **no more then one full turn**. The new gauges use Pyrex glass and will crack if over tightened.

The new gauges are made with Pyrex glass, silicon gaskets, and viton o-rings. These gauges are servicable and should only rebuilt with the same components to insure the gauge will withstand high temperatures.

The gauges are made by LENZ HYDRAULIC, P.O. Box 1044, Dayton, Ohio, 45401.
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Part number: MIL-T-550-5-V

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